



ADK Vienna / Hamburg Edition

DESIGNER'S NOTES



Vienna Edition



Hamburg Edition



Vienna "LE" Edition



Hamburg "LE" Edition

The "Vienna" and "Hamburg" editions are re-engineered versions of the well regarded ADK A51s or Model "S" – High SPL Transformer-Coupled Class A Condenser Microphone that was developed in 1998.

Even though it was (and still is) a great mic for the price, it soon became obvious to me that the Model S could be improved quite a bit. The main improvement is an increase of the signal to noise ratio. The "Vienna" and "Hamburg" have greater sensitivity, resulting in a lower noise floor. To achieve this, the gain of the FET GAIN was increased and to offer what is considered a healthy overload margin, the pad went from 10 dB to 18 dB. The idea was that the user could have a very quiet mic for vocals and acoustic guitars and at the flick of a switch, a mic that could be used on guitar or bass cabs and drums. The first updated version of the Model S was really nice and that's when the two "flavors" idea sprang up. I can't recall who had the idea first, and it doesn't matter.

What matters is that the Model S is now available in the Vienna Edition with a rather flat response up to the mids, where a subtle coloration gives a really smooth midrange, followed by a sparkling but not hyped top: very natural, but slightly on the brighter side of things. Perfect for acoustic instruments and Modern Pop or Rock vocals when you don't want an exaggerated "sound" but perhaps just a bit of "excitement". The "Vienna" uses a unique edge connected 1.07" (27.2 mm inner diameter) 5µ capsule.

The second version of the re-worked Model S is the Hamburg Edition: actually closer in tone to the first "revision" because the capsule is the same as the original Model S. The head amp circuit for the "Hamburg" is very close to the "Vienna" with similar specs, but the high end response is different. Coupled with the 1" (25.4 mm inner diameter) 6µ capsule, the tone of this mic is mellower than the "Vienna" but it also manages to have greater "presence". The high frequencies are not as sparkly but the midrange is more upfront. Ideal for Guitar amps, old school Blues/Jazz vocals, etc. Both the Hamburg and Vienna are wonderful for Drums, depending on whether you want fatter or crisper tone. Both versions have many applications!

Compared to the original A51s or "Model S", the newer versions use much better components in the audio path, have improved capsule shock-absorbing mounts and both have significantly improved specifications. The HPF curves were changed from -6dBs @ 100 to -3dBs @ 100Hz for a more subtle low-cut, perfect to counter-balance proximity effect. The tone of these mics have been fine tuned over a period of many months and represent a breakthrough in the quality to value ratio; likewise, the best of both worlds in terms of "modern sound" and "classic tone".

They compliment themselves quite nicely and will certainly compare favorably to some of the German and Austrian classics.

- Jean-Pol Gerard, ADK Designer and Owner of No-Hype Studios in Belgium